

23 November 1954

MEMORANDUM TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/NATIONAL ESTIMATES

SUBJECT: Responsibility for Revision of the National Intelligence Digest

REFERENCE: Memorandum to the AD/NE and AD/CI from the DD/I,
21 January 1954

1. The National Intelligence Digest is currently revised monthly on the basis of contributions from OCI and ONE. Under the terms of the referenced memorandum, "ONE will be responsible for preparing estimative sections /of the Digest, and/ OCI will give support by supplying current intelligence (including material for the preparation of graphics) from the OCI Handbook, or additionally as agreed upon." The memorandum gives ONE final responsibility for the preparation and content of the Digest.
2. At the time this division of responsibility was assigned, it was felt that the "Current Situation" section of the Handbook would fulfill the current intelligence requirements of the Digest. However, the "Current Situation" section of the Handbook has since changed in scope and been redesignated as "Current Issues". Meanwhile, OCI is, for perfectly sound reasons from its point of view, tending to submit its Digest contribution increasingly in the form of the Current Issues section of the Handbook. For this reason we have found that the OCI contributions have become extremely difficult to integrate with the ONE material without considerable rewriting.
3. We believe that the Digest was originally intended to contain broad current and estimative intelligence. The reason for this was two-fold: a. It was believed that consumers of the Digest do not require detailed or basic intelligence; and b. the inclusion of only general political, economic and military intelligence would eliminate the need for frequent revision of particular sections. In the past several months some Digest sections have had to be updated simply to correct perishable factual information which probably should not have been included in the Digest in the first place.
4. ONE does not have the personnel or the physical facilities for handling the monthly editing and typing which is required if OCI submits original sections of the Handbook rather than material which can be directly incorporated into the Digest. Aside from this problem, however, the problem of keeping the Digest up to date has strained ONE's limited resources. For this reason we believe that a re-evaluation of ONE and OCI responsibility is indicated.

DEC 29 1954

ME-5

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5. Two possible solutions come to mind:

a. ONE be given complete responsibility for the preparation and content of the Digest. ONE would prepare a complete and integrated area section, drawing upon OCI as required and checking out with OCI before publication. This would require virtually the full time of one intelligence officer and one clerical person in ONE (neither of whom is now at hand) to handle the monthly review of the Digest.

b. ONE be given responsibility for only those sections of the Digest within its competence. OCI would be responsible for all current intelligence in the Digest, and the OCI Production Staff would be charged with gathering material together and publishing it. OCI and ONE would jointly select those sections requiring revision.

Solution a. (single office responsibility) presents the ideal solution in terms of efficient production, uniform standards and quality of content in the Digest. However, ONE's present TO does not permit the full-time assignment of any staff members to the Digest, and it does not seem that the priority of the Digest warrants a change in ONE organization. Solution b. should solve the rewriting and revising problems described above, and would probably not require organizational changes in either OCI or ONE.

6. Recommendation: That the substance of this memorandum be forwarded to the DD/I, requesting his approval and recommending implementation of paragraph 5 b above.

Chester Cooper

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~